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Identical letters dated 26 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith the daily report on the activities carried out by the inspection teams of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Iraq on 26 December 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Salman Ali**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Activities of the IAEA and UNMOVIC inspection teams in Iraq

Inspection activities carried out on Thursday, 26 December 2002

I. IAEA inspection team

The team, which was composed of six inspectors, left the Canal Hotel in Baghdad at 8.45 a.m. and proceeded to the Al-Zahf al-Kabir Company, a subsidiary of the Military Industrialization Corporation (MIC), where it took an 81-millimetre aluminium tube and immediately left the site.

At 9.50 a.m. the team arrived at the Dhu al-Fiqar plant, also an MIC establishment. The purpose of the inspection of this site was to examine the 81-millimetre aluminium tubes used in the manufacture of rockets having a range of 10 kilometres. The team carried out a series of inspections of the sites involved with the tubes and checked the quantities of tubes imported by Iraq. The team questioned all persons concerned at the plant in order to ascertain that no such tubes had been imported into Iraq since 1990 and took an inventory of the tubes. The team then proceeded to the private company responsible for the importation of such tubes in order to ask questions and ascertain that it has not imported any such tubes since 1990. It must be mentioned that the tubes in question were mentioned in the accusations contained in the report of British Prime Minister Tony Blair as being used for centrifuges for the manufacture of atomic bombs, whereas the tubes are used for the manufacture of 81-millimetre rockets having a range of 10 kilometres. The team completed its mission at 5.30 p.m. and returned to the Canal Hotel at 5.50 p.m.

II. UNMOVIC joint inspection team (chemical, missiles, biological)

The team, which was composed of four inspectors, left the Canal Hotel in Baghdad at 8.35 a.m. and arrived at the Technological University at 8.45 a.m. The inspection team met the University President and a number of competent University authorities and inquired about the research done by higher-level students at the University, the equipment and systems used for such research and the relationship between the University and different ministries, and the questions were answered. The team then made a tour of the Chemical Engineering Department, the Department's laboratory containing tagged equipment, the Mechanical Engineering Department and the Control and Systems Department. During its tour of the departments, the team asked questions about the nature of advice offered by them to State ministries, and the questions were answered. It should be noted that this was the second visit by inspection teams to the Technological University, inasmuch as the IAEA inspection team had visited it on Tuesday, 24 December 2002.

III. UNMOVIC inspection team (biological)

The team, which was composed of 12 inspectors, left the Canal Hotel in Baghdad at 9.10 a.m. At 9.10 a.m. [sic] it arrived at the Food Examination and Analysis Laboratory of the Ministry of Trade, located in the Jadiriyah area of Baghdad. The team met the Laboratory director and asked him questions about the laboratory, its activities, number of employees, types of foodstuffs analysed, number of samples analysed yearly and types of equipment used in testing. The team then inspected all the departments and laboratories and checked the tagged equipment and the types of tests conducted in the laboratory. It also inquired about the nature and sources of the samples and modern scientific resources, and was provided with answers to all the questions. The team completed its mission at 12.25 p.m. and returned to the Canal Hotel at 12.50 p.m.

IV. UNMOVIC inspection team (missiles)

The team, which was composed of 10 inspectors, left the Canal Hotel at 8.30 a.m. It arrived at the Rashid State Company, an MIC subsidiary located 50 kilometres south of Baghdad, at 9.20 a.m. The Rashid State Company specializes in the production of rockets in the ranges permitted under the Security Council resolutions. The team asked Company officials about the structure and activities of the Company and the responsibilities of each of its plants, and answers were provided. The team then inspected the main administration building and the Commercial Department building and examined the building plan, a copy of which was handed over together with the declarations. The team completed its mission at 1.15 p.m. and returned to the Canal Hotel at 2.05 p.m.

V. UNMOVIC inspection team (chemical)

The team, which was composed of 16 inspectors, left the Canal Hotel in Baghdad at 8.30 a.m. and arrived at the petrochemical project, which belongs to the State Establishment for Design and Consultation of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and is located 60 kilometres south of Baghdad. The team met with competent site officials and asked them about changes that had taken place in the project from 1998 to the present, the reasons for the discontinuance of construction work, and future plans, and answers were provided. The team then inspected all the site facilities and checked the equipment included in the declaration. The team completed its mission at 12.55 p.m. and returned to the Canal Hotel at 1.45 p.m.

Remarks

On this day a total of six sites were inspected by the inspection teams, which included 48 inspectors. The inspectors met with site officials, who answered all their questions.